

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Listed Distribution

DEPT:
LOCATION:

SUBJECT: HEALTH PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR
BURIAL OF THE INCO NICKEL PLANT

DATE: November 16, 1978
FROM DEPT: 923
CODE NO: GAT-923-78-280
REFERENCE:

The INCO nickel powder plant in Huntington, WV, is scheduled to be dismantled and shipped to GAT for burial in a classified security area. It is the understanding of the Industrial Hygiene and Health Physics Department that scrap equipment will be sized to be shipped by truck and that further modifications at GAT may be necessary to facilitate burial. Due to possible contamination of some plant fixtures with nickel carbonyl, uranium, and/or asbestos, GAT personnel may be exposed to these toxic materials when handling or further dismantling scrap. Equipment potentially contaminated with nickel carbonyl and uranium have been marked with large red and white "Xs", respectively. Fixtures with asbestos insulation are readily visible.

In order to protect potentially exposed employees from hazards associated with nickel carbonyl, uranium, and asbestos, implementation of the following health protection measures is recommended.

Nickel Carbonyl

Each employee whose job activities involve dismantling or cutting scrap which may contain nickel carbonyl (red "X") shall

1. wear full-body coveralls,
2. don an air-supplied respirator, and
3. submit a urine sample for analysis of nickel content at the end of each week.

Note: Nickel carbonyl vapor is approximately six times more dense than air and will flow along the ground into low lying areas. Personnel who enter the burial pit or equipment must wear an air supplied respirator. Also, if a portable compressor is used to operate the respirators, care must be taken to ensure that only uncontaminated air enters the intake.

Uranium

When dismantling or cutting scrap which may contain uranium (white "X"), each employee shall

Note: to Gordon, each truck with the radioactive material must be surveyed before leaving premises for contamination.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY:

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3/23/00

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1. wear full-body coveralls,
2. gloves,
3. don a full-face respirator with GMR canister, and
4. submit a urine sample for uranium analysis at the end of each week.

Asbestos *→ long disease is asbestos*

Insofar as practicable, asbestos insulation shall be handled, removed, or otherwise worked in a wet state to prevent the emission of airborne fibers. Each employee, whose job activities involve handling, dismantling, or cutting scrap which is visibly contaminated with asbestos, shall

1. wear full-body coveralls,
2. gloves,
3. head covering,
4. shoecovers,
5. don a half-face respirator fitted with an approved canister for asbestos, and
6. place work clothes (at the end of each shift) in an impermeable bag which is sealed and labeled for transport to the laundry. Labels shall bear the following legend.

CAUTION
CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS
AVOID CREATING DUST
BREATHING ASBESTOS MAY CAUSE SERIOUS
BODILY HARM

Other necessary precautionary measures are listed below.

1. Employees, whose tasks involve exposure to more than one of the toxic materials noted above, shall implement those health protection measures which afford the greatest protection.
2. The entire burial area should be posted with signs which warn that nickel carbonyl, uranium, and asbestos are present and that only authorized personnel are permitted to enter.
3. Employees potentially exposed to one or more of these toxic materials shall wash their hands before eating or smoking.
4. All personnel who will be required to work in the burial area shall attend a pre-project safety meeting which outlines toxic chemical hazards, appropriate work practices and health protection measures, symptoms of overexposure, and planned monitoring activities.

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The Industrial Hygiene and Health Physics Department will conduct surveys for nickel carbonyl, uranium, and asbestos and analyze urinalysis data to determine employee exposure levels. Recommendations for protective equipment and procedures may be altered during the project based upon the results of these monitoring activities.

If you have any questions, please contact D. J. Ruggles, Extension 5245.

D. J. Ruggles (hq)

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